image

SKYBOUND

5

GUARDING THE GLOBE

HESTER • NAUCK • RAUCH

GUARDING THE GLOBE

PHIL HESTER
WRITER

TODD NAUCK
PENCILER & INKER

JOHN RAUCH
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
EDITOR

COVER BY TODD NAUCK & JOHN RAUCH
CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN, CORY WALKER & RYAN OTTLEY

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman - chief operating officer
Erik Larsen - chief financial officer
Todd McFarlane - president
Marc Silvestri - chief executive officer
Jim Valentino - vice-president
Eric Stephenson - publisher
Todd Martinez - sales & licensing coordinator
Jennifer de Guzman - pr & marketing director
Branwyn Bigglestone - accounts manager
Emily Miller - accounting assistant
Jamie Parreno - marketing assistant
Jenna Savage - administrative assistant
Sarah deLaine - events coordinator
Kevin Gan Yuen - digital rights coordinator
Jonathan Chan - production manager
Drew Gill - art director
Monica Garcia - production artist
Vincent Kukua - production artist
Jana Cook - production artist
www.imagecomics.com

For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
J.J. Didde - President
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Helen Leigh - Office Manager
Brandon West - Inventory Control
Feldman Public Relations LA - Public Relations

For International rights inquiries,
please contact: foreign@skybound.com

WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

GUARDING THE GLOBE #5. January 2013. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center St.,6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2013 Robert Kirkman, LLC, Cory Walker, and Ryan Ottley. All rights reserved. GUARDING THE GLOBE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman, LLC, Cory Walker, and Ryan Ottley, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # RICH – 465633.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE COMMAND CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

arking in Rear

PIGS.

THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING AT RIGHT NOW.

I REMEMBER EVERY LAST DETAIL OF WHAT THAT BITCH MADE ME DO WITH EACH ONE OF YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?

EVERY DETAIL.

AW, C'MON, OUTRUN, YOU CAN'T--

DO *NOT* TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO-- NOT NOW.

MAYBE I'VE ONLY KNOWN MOST OF YOU FOR A FEW WEEKS--

BUT JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT MY CHARACTER THAT LED YOU TO BELIEVE I COULD GO FROM A RESPECTED CRIME FIGHTER TO CHAIN-SMOKING SKANK IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE?

LISTEN, LADY, I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. I REALLY AM.

BUT I'M ACCUSTOMED TO WOMEN WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT, ESPECIALLY FROM ME.

YEAH, YOU'RE ***BLEEDING IRRESISTIBLE,*** YOU ARE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WAS AWFUL, BUT BLAME THAT GHOST CHICK WHO POSSESSED YOU, ***NOT US.***

ZAN, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST--

NAW, FORGET THAT. "NO MEANS NO," AND NOW "***YES*** MEANS NO," TOO?

I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING AN ***EXORCIST*** TO EVERY DATE?

HE'S UPSET. HE'S NOT LIKE YOU AND ME.

HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE WE... AREN'T QUITE OURSELVES.

PLEASE. DON'T EVEN ***TRY*** TO COMPARE WHAT WAS DONE TO ME TO YOUR WEAK--

I-- I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE--

FORGET IT, AMIGA. I CAN'T ASK FOR FORGIVENESS IF I'M NOT WILLING TO GIVE IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT WE DID WAS ***BAD?*** YOU KEPT SAYING IT WAS ***GOOD.***

OVER AND OVER AND OVER.

THIS ISN'T GOING SO WELL.

IT WAS HER IDEA. BETTER TO GET IT ALL OUT NOW THAN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

SHE'S GOING TO NEED COUNSELING. SHE'S GOING TO NEED A LOT OF COUNSELING.

BEYOND THAT, THERE'S THE MATTER OF JUST HOW LONG EMBRACE CONTROLLED OUTRUN.

IT'S KNOWN THAT EMBRACE BRIEFLY POSSESSED KNOCKOUT IN PARIS, SO UNLESS SHE CAN MANIPULATE MULTIPLE TARGETS, HER INFLUENCE ON OUTRUN HAD TO BE INTERMITTENT, PERHAPS ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE--

JUST NUDGES HERE AND THERE, DROPPING IN AND OUT OF HER MIND AT WILL.

REGARDLESS, SHE'S SEEN THE INNER WORKING OF OUR ENTIRE OPERATION, FORGET ALL THE PILLOW TALK SHE GOT OUT OF HALF THE TEAM.

BY NOW, SET KNOWS JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR SECURITY PROTOCOLS, OUR OPERATING PROCEDURES, OUR PERSONNEL--

HELL, HE PROBABLY KNOWS WHAT BRAND OF CANDY BARS ARE IN OUR SNACK MACHINES.

WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN RESETTING ALL OF OUR SECURITY MEASURES. THAT'S EASY...

BUT OUTRUN'S STATE OF MIND? THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER.

YEAH, AND CONSIDERING THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL INVASION SHE JUST ENDURED--

MAYBE-- YOU KNOW-- ***SPYING ON HER THERAPY*** ISN'T THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE.

BLEEP!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S COMPLICATED.

YOU HUMANS SAY THAT ABOUT EVERYTHING.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.

I SAID YOU COULD GO.

I KNOW. I-- I JUST--

I WOULD *NEVER* HURT YOU, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. THAT WASN'T *ME*.

DON'T GET ATTACHED TO ME BECAUSE OF WHAT EMBRACE MADE ME DO.

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS SPECIAL.

I KNOW. OH, GOD, I KNOW THAT. ONLY...

I CARED ABOUT YOU... *BEFORE*. BEFORE ALL THIS STUFF.

I ADMIRED YOU, YOU KNOW? THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF, YOUR POWERS, YOUR VOICE, ALL THAT.

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I HAD A THING FOR YOU.

SO WHEN YOU APPROACHED ME-- I MEAN, WHEN *EMBRACE* APPROACHED ME, I THOUGHT IT WAS MEANT TO BE OR SOMETHING.

I THOUGHT IT WAS HOW THESE THINGS WORKED.

I-- I'D NEVER *BEEN* WITH ANYONE BEFORE-- NOT LIKE THAT.

YOU MEAN... THAT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME? EVER?

EVER EVER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU SEEM SO-- SO-- I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW IT'S ODD. I JUST NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT PERSON, I GUESS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THIS FEELS SO WEIRD.

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FINALLY FALLING INTO PLACE.

BUT NOW THAT THIS-- THIS *THING*-- IS BETWEEN US, I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO KNOW YOU THE RIGHT WAY.

I'LL NEVER EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE TO START OVER.

MY GOD, I'M A PRICK FOR EVEN PUTTING THIS ON YOU. I'M MAKING THIS ALL ABOUT *ME* SOMEHOW.

BETTER YOU SHOULD NEVER KNOW.

BUT I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU KNOWING HOW TRULY SORRY I AM.

SORRY FOR US BOTH.

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WHERE'S MY MAN?

COME ON, CHAMP. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN BED ALREADY. IT'S STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE.

BRIT?

JESSICA, WHERE'S BRIT?

JESS!

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU FLIPPING OUT ABOUT?

SORRY, HON. I JUST--

THERE WAS THIS THING AT WORK. SOMEONE INFILTRATED OUR TEAM, INSIDE INFORMATION WAS COMPROMISED. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

LIKE A BAD GUY COULD SET FOOT ON THE LAWN WITHOUT ONE OF YOUR AND DONALD'S BOOBY TRAPS LAUNCHING HIM INTO ORBIT.

WHERE IS THE LITTLE GUY ANYWAY?

STARLA IS KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM.

STARLA? THE CRACKHEAD?

THE EX-CRACKHEAD, REMEMBER? YOU MADE HER GO TO REHAB BEFORE YOU HIRED HER AT THE CLUB.

SHE'S GOT A KID OF HER OWN NOW. SHE'S A 911 DISPATCHER, MARRIED, GAINED 40 POUNDS, THE WHOLE DEAL.

I NEEDED A BREAK, OKAY? THIS IS MY FIRST SHOWER SINCE TUESDAY.

WELL, LET'S NOT LET THAT GO TO WASTE.

NOT NOW, BRIT. I'M EXHAUSTED. LIKE, *REALLY* EXHAUSTED.

I GUESS BRIT, JR. CAN BE A HANDFUL.

NO, BRIT. I'VE SEEN OTHER KIDS, OTHER PARENTS. HE-- HE'S *DIFFERENT*.

I LOVE HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD, BUT HE'S *NOT* NORMAL.

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, JESS. OVER AND OVER IT. THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE.

AND THAT DOESN'T HELP. YOU STANDING THERE LIKE SOME KIND OF ROBOT BUZZING OUT HALF-ASSED PLATITUDES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

I WANT TO SEE IT *BOTHER* YOU. WHY DOESN'T HIS AUTISM BOTHER YOU?

I WANT TO KNOW I'M NOT IN THIS ALONE. I WANT TO KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, TOO.

I WANT TO SEE YOU WORRY ABOUT HIS FUTURE LIKE I DO.

WILL HE FIT IN AT SCHOOL? WILL HE HAVE A BEST FRIEND?

WILL HE EVER TALK TO A GIRL? WILL HE EVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN LOVE?

COME ON. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

OH, HELL. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TAKING ME TO WORK. NOT NOW.

NAH, THESE GUYS CAN HANDLE IT. I'M OFF THE CLOCK.

I JUST WANT YOU TO SEE IT.

I GET IT. YOUR JOB DEMANDS A THICK SKIN, YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL.

SOMETHING LIKE A LITTLE BOY WITH AUTISM DOESN'T MAKE YOUR TOP TEN LIST OF TRAUMAS.

NO. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

LOOK AT THEM.

"THERE'S MONSTER GIRL. HER REAL NAME'S AMANDA.

"SHE'S A SMART, SUCCESSFUL WOMAN TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A MONSTER, ONLY WHEN SHE TURNS BACK TO HUMAN, SHE FINDS THAT BODY GROWING PROGRESSIVELY YOUNGER, MORE CHILD-LIKE.

"IT'S SLOWED DOWN NOW, BUT SHE'LL NEVER BE THE WOMAN SHE WAS. NEVER.

"AND THIS GUY, YETI.

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE'S A WORLD WHERE HE'S THE RUNT OF THE LITTER, BUT HE STILL FITS IN THERE.

"YET HE'S HERE, HELPING A WORLD THAT SEES HIM AS LITTLE MORE THAN A MONSTER.

"AND SHAPESMITH. GOD KNOWS WHAT HE REALLY IS, BUT HIS MIND IS JUST AS ALIEN AS HIS BODY.

"HERE HE IS, MAKING THE BEST OF IT.

"LE BRUSIER. HE'S A FREAKING **DOG**, BUT HE GIVES HIS ALL TO THIS TEAM, THIS WORLD."

THIS IS WHAT I SEE EVERY DAY, JESS. PEOPLE WHO AREN'T NORMAL, PEOPLE FAR LESS NORMAL THAN OUR BOY.

BUT PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS.

I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HON. MAYBE BRIT'S AUTISM ***DOESN'T*** BOTHER ME.

BECAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT HIM, I DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT HE ***WON'T*** BE ABLE TO DO...

BUT WHAT HE ***WILL.***

I'M SORRY. I-- I'M JUST SO TIRED.

THAT'S MY FAULT. I LET YOU BEAR ALL THIS YOURSELF.

LET'S SCHEDULE AT LEAST ONE DAY A WEEK WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS AT ALL.

HOW ABOUT THAT? A JESSICA DAY. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

SOMETHING NORMAL? SOMETHING BORING?

BORE MY BRAINS OUT.

I WANT TO GO BOWLING.

YOU'RE KIDDING.

STARLA IS IN A LEAGUE, A COUPLES LEAGUE.

COUPLES?

YOU SAID!

OKAY, OKAY!

MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET IN ON SOME OF THAT MONSTER FIGHT.

MUMBAI, INDIA.

WHAT AN ODD CREATURE. NOT QUITE CORPOREAL, YET NOT TRULY A SPIRIT.

YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD HURT YOU. YOU THOUGHT YOUR SOUL WAS SAFE FROM HARM...

BUT THOTH *EATS* SOULS.

NOT HERS.

THRAM!

STILL PLAYING BY THE OLD MAN'S RULES, *EH*? WHAT HAS THAT EVER GOTTEN US?

HIDING YOUR FACE, THAT I APPROVE OF, BROTHER. BUT HIDING YOUR POWER?

THAT IS A FOOL'S GAME!

WE WERE BORN IMMUNE TO EACH OTHER'S POWER, BUT I TAKE NO CHANCES, BROTHER.

WHOK!

UNLIKE YOU, I *STUDY* THE PLANETS I CONQUER. I EXPLOIT THEIR GIFTS.

NO.

I TURN THE WORLDS THEMSELVES INTO MY WEAPONS!

CHOOM!

I DON'T NEED MY POWER TO BEAT YOU, THOTH, NO MATTER WHAT FATHER DECREES.

BILLIONS OF LIVES, SET.

I DRAINED BILLIONS OF LIVES TO AMASS THE POWER NEEDED TO BREACH THIS PLANE.

TRULY, IT HAS LEFT ME WEAKENED. YOU MAY EVEN BE A MATCH FOR ME.

THANKFULLY, WE BATTLE IN A CESSPOOL CHOKED WITH LIVING SOULS...

ENOUGH TO OVERPOWER YOUR TRICKERY--

AND CLAIM THIS WORLD AS MY OWN!

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT.

I ADMIRE THE POETIC IRONY OF CONVERTING MAULER'S HEADQUARTERS INTO A HOSPITAL FOR HIS VICTIMS, DONALD.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

KNOCKOUT COULD BE RIGHT. THAT CROWD OUT THERE IS GETTING UGLY.

I EXPECTED AS MUCH. WHEN A MANIAC MANAGES TO PIGGYBACK HIS GENETIC CODE INTO EVERY UNBORN FETUS IN THE AREA...

THE RESULTS ARE BOUND TO UPSET.

THEY **ARE** KIND OF CUTE, THOUGH.

TELL THEIR PARENTS THAT. A FULL FIFTY PERCENT HAVE LEFT THEM WITH US FOR GOOD, FELT THEY WERE TAINTED.

WE COULD HAVE MORE THAN A ***THOUSAND*** LITTLE MAULERS ON OUR HANDS BEFORE ALL THIS IS THROUGH.

YOU'RE A PERFECT LITTLE BOY, YES YOU ARE. JUST A LITTLE BLUEBERRY.

A SWEET LITTLE BLUEBERRY.

CECIL'S GONNA FLIP WHEN HE SEES YOUR EXPENSE REPORT, BRO.

WELL, THIS IS OUR FAULT. WE DIDN'T STOP MAULER BEFORE HE PULLED OFF HIS SCHEME. THE RESULTS ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF ALL THIS? WHY NOT HANDLE IT QUIETLY?

BESIDES PROVIDING THE NEEDED CARE TO THE VICTIMS? MAULER, LIKE MOST SUPER VILLAINS, IS A NARCISSISTIC EGOMANIAC.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE WILL RETURN TO THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME.

A VICTORY LAP.

AND WE'LL BE HERE WHEN HE DOES.

TIME TO SWEEP THE CROWD AGAIN, INVINCIBLE. EVEN IN A MOB LIKE THAT, MAULER SHOULD BE EASY TO SPOT.

I'LL SAY.

SON OF A BITCH.

I'M NO ONE'S SON, ACTUALLY. MORE OF A FATHER FIGURE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

MAKING JOKES? YOU'RE MAKING JOKES AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO THESE PEOPLE?

SLOW DOWN, INVINCIBLE.

I TAKE IT YOU REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE IN THIS AFFAIR?

JULIAN WALDEK, ATTORNEY. I REPRESENT MR. MAULER--

"MR. MAULER."

I HANDLE MR. MAULER'S LEGAL AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS. IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT MY CLIENT BROKE NO LAWS IN ALTERING THE DNA OF THE NEARBY POPULACE.

ALL OF HIS RESIDENT TEST SUBJECTS SIGNED LABOR CONTRACTS EXPLICITLY GIVING HIM PERMISSION TO IMPREGNATE THEM AND CARE FOR THE SUBSEQUENT OFFSPRING.

FURTHERMORE, WE HEREBY SERVE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE WITH A COMPLAINT DETAILING OUR INTENT TO RECOVER MR. MAULER'S ESTATE, AND RECOMPENSE FOR ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM YOUR UNWARRANTED INVASION OF SAID PROPERTIES.

WHOA, WHOA. WAIT A MINUTE. LET ME LOOK AT THIS.

DONALD! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

HEY, HOLD UP. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS. WHAT'S THIS HERE SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU NATTERING CLOWN?

LOOK. RIGHT THERE.

PLOM!

KHOOM!

DUDE!

THROKKITA! THROKKITA! THROKKITA!

INVINCIBLE!

WHAT? WE GOT LAWYERS, TOO.

I FIGURE WE'VE GOT UNTIL HE WAKES UP TO CHARGE HIM WITH SOMETHING.

RESTON, VIRGINIA.

BOWL

GUTTER BALL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HOW DOES SOMEBODY GET TO BE AS ANCIENT AS YOU WITHOUT PERFECTING EVERY GAME ON EARTH?

YEAH, DUDE. I SEEN YOU PLAY POOL, THROW DARTS. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOOD AT EVERYTHING.

I AM GOOD AT EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING I CARE ABOUT.

SO, WHERE'S THE LITTLE DUDE TONIGHT?

SOME OF BRIT'S WORK FRIENDS ARE WATCHING HIM.

"HE'S IN GOOD HANDS."

UPSY DAISY!

UPSY-- UHHH.

I'VE GOT YOU, LITTLE ONE. UNCLE YETI OVERDID IT A BIT, DIDN'T HE?

AGAIN! AGAIN!

LAST CHANCE TO BREAK FIFTY, CHAMP.

BREEP! BREEP!

THROK!

YES?

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

YOU'RE *KIDDING* ME. ONE NIGHT A WEEK.

YOU PROMISED ME ONE NIGHT A WEEK, AND YOU'RE BLOWING IT THE FIRST TIME OUT.

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, HONEY.

IT'S *ALWAYS* AN EMERGENCY.

NOT LIKE THIS, BELIEVE ME.

NEVER LIKE THIS.

MUMBAI, INDIA.

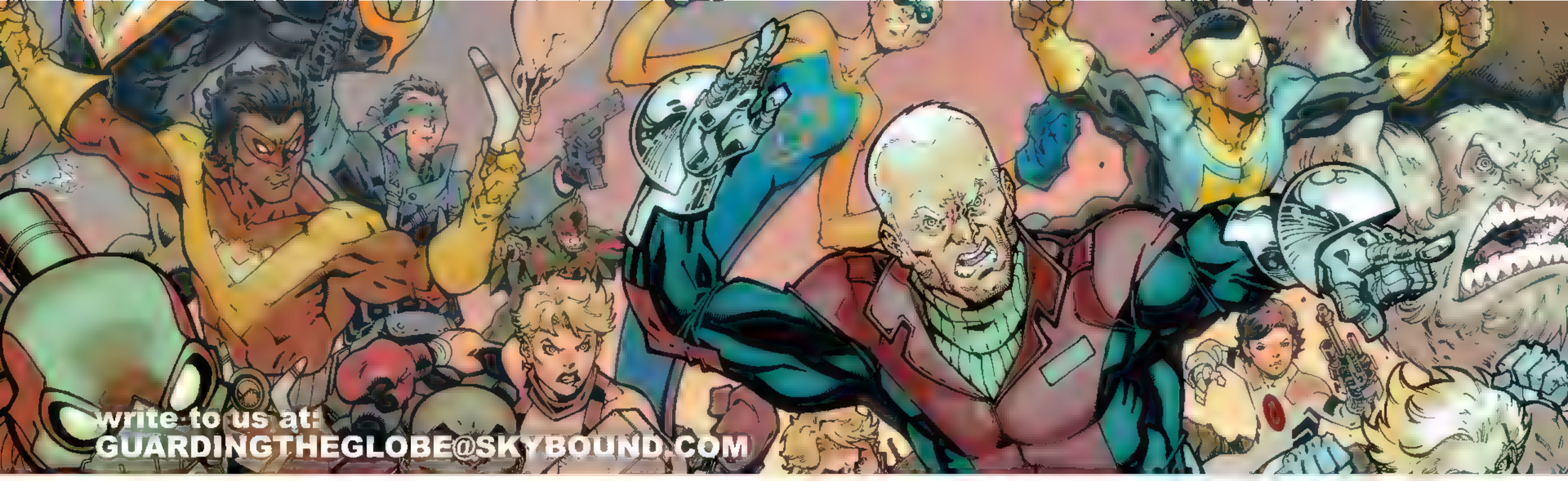
MY GOD, ALL THOSE BODIES. THIS HAS SET WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.

Pop!

IT'S LIKE PARIS ALL OVER AGAIN.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, EXACTLY.

THIS TIME THERE ARE *TWO* OF THEM.



Five issues deep and this is what we've been building to: Set vs. Thoth vs. the Guardians of the Globe. Expect property damage.

Phil & GTG Crew:

Excellent first 2 issues. I am a huge fan of INVINCIBLE and GTG is a great sister book to that series. Art and story so far have been fantastic. Definitely making its way to the top of my reading pile! Keep up the great work!

Chris Lockhart

We're not stopping until we're at the top of Chris Lockhart's reading pile! I've also been saying GTG has feminine qualities. Must be Todd and Phil are such sensitive guys.

Look, Chris, you're already at the top of our lettercol pile. The least you could do is reciprocate.

The new GtG is a fun read!

I like that old characters came back (Mauler, crazy Elephant Guy, etc.) and the art is very well done.

And now my questions:

1. Is a HC collection planned? By the way a Brit, Wolf-Man and a TJ HC would be great too :-)

No hardcover yet, but I'll pass along the word. But man, Todd just finished the cover to the next trade paperback collection (due in stores March) and it's pure dynamite.

As an artist myself, everything Todd turns in is jealousy-inducing.

2. What's up with Dracula? Did we see him in the GotG?

I just rewatched Monster Squad and man, do I love Dracula! Phil, can we make that happen?

Dracula doesn't have the stones to show up in this comic.

Keep on the good work!

Greetings from Germany

Gerd V.

Hey guys,

First off, lemme say that I'm already becoming a big fan of the new volume of GUARDING THE GLOBE. I'm also glad to see more of El Chupacabra. There aren't that many heroes of Latin heritage to be honest, at least not to my knowledge. Anyhow, I'm glad to see he wasn't done with in the first volume of GUARDING THE GLOBE. He shows a lot of potential to be one of greatest heroes ever.

Chupacabra's story isn't done yet. He's got a solo story in the works where he confronts some of his unresolved issues.

A whole dang issue!

Secondly, when you said Wolf-Man was there to stay, are you serious? Because if you are WHOOO!!!!! WEREWOLF REPRESENT! Haha, sorry when I read that letter I was overwhelmed with excitement to see my first EVER completed comic series make an Astounding return, and I agree, he is a bit of a Batman resemblance now if you think about it haha. I'm excited to see and read more awesome stories you guys have in store for the Guardians of the Globe, man.

Joseph Corral

Maybe the Wolf-Man can fight Dracula? Phil, are you writing this down?!

I love Wolf-Man, too. He's one of those characters you have to fight the urge to overexpose, like Wolverine or The Joker. The more judicious we are with his appearances, the more you will crave them! As for Dracula vs Wolf-Man, we're waiting to secure the coveted Abbot & Costello comics license before starting our new line of horror team-ups.

Dear Team GtG,

GUARDING THE GLOBE #3 was intense! Chupacabra's immortal words at the end of the issue – "That is so not good" – was an excellent and accurate statement about the space-bug threat, and provided a great cliffhanger ending. Besides the fights (and the fights were magnificently illustrated by Todd), I love the thought-provoking idea of a hero like Samson doing something as mundane, yet needed, as cutting hair for free. Phil's dialogue for the barber shop scene was brilliant, and the concept was an inspiring exploration of how individuals (whether super-powered or not) can help people in their community.

Reed Beebe

Guarding the Globe in Kansas City, Missouri

Thanks for the support, Reed. Phil, any inspiration for that opening scene? And why is it that barber shops always have a high quotient of crazy?

If I am fortunate enough to have a long run on the book, you'll be seeing lots of scenes like that one. I imagine super heroes would want to extend their impulse to help humanity beyond just karate-chopping diamond smugglers. That's why we've seen the Guardians evacuating flood victims and Samson running his barber shop. If I were a super hero, I'd want to be one full time. I'd take as much or more pride in digging a well for some broke village as I would in thwarting super villains. That's just me!

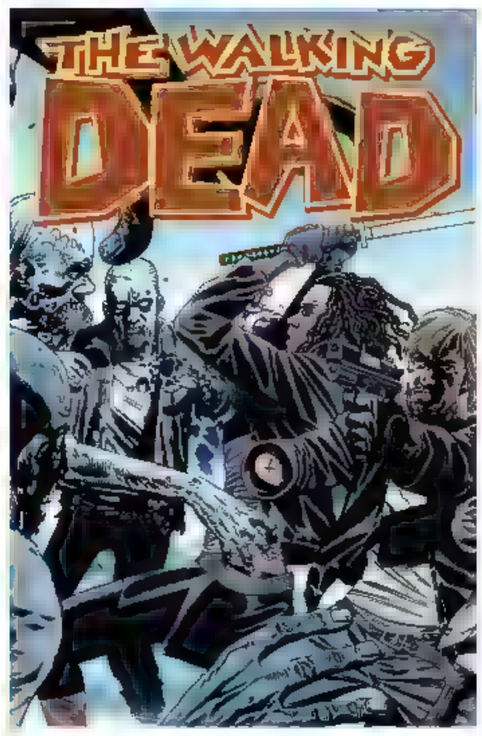
Next month, we have a BIG announcement. How big? So big it affects the entire universe. If you haven't been reading INVINCIBLE lately, especially the "The Death of Everyone" story, do that first. We'll wait.

-Sean Mackiewicz

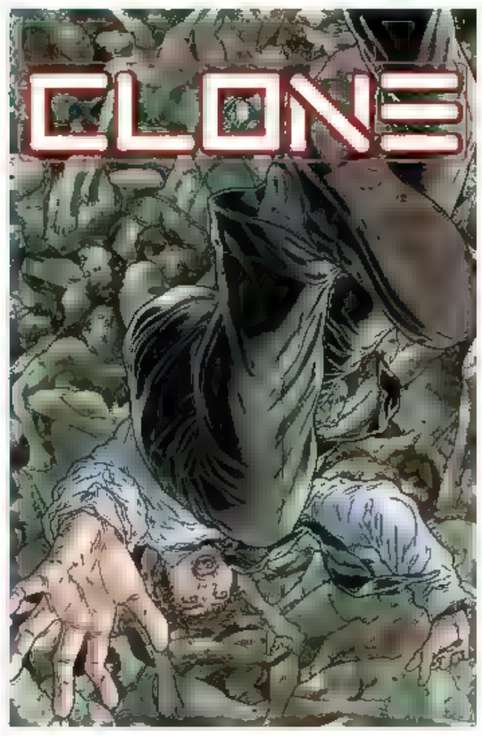
It's so big I even remembered it was coming without being told more than four times!

-Phil Hester

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



THE WALKING DEAD #106
ON SALE NOW



CLONE #3
ON SALE NOW

INVINCIBLE VOL.17
ON SALE NEXT WEEK

image

ANDY DIGGLE JOCK

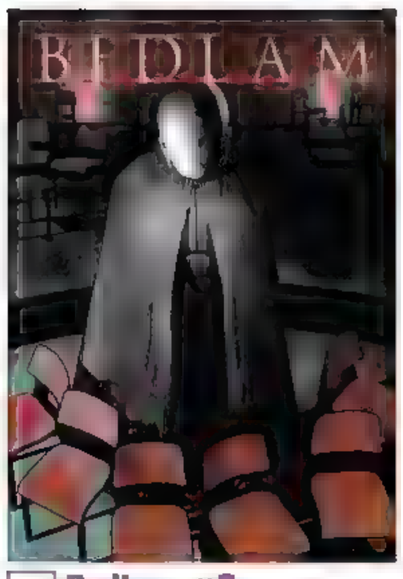
SNAPSHOT

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. THERE THAT'S WORTH A THOUSAND BULLETS.

ISSUE #1
FEBRUARY
2013

image

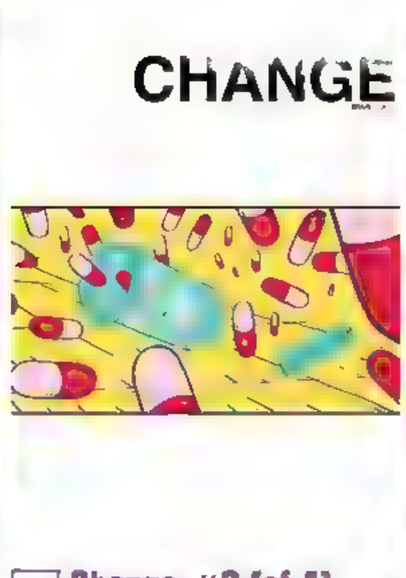
SNAPSHOT © 2013 Andy Diggle & Jock. All rights reserved
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.



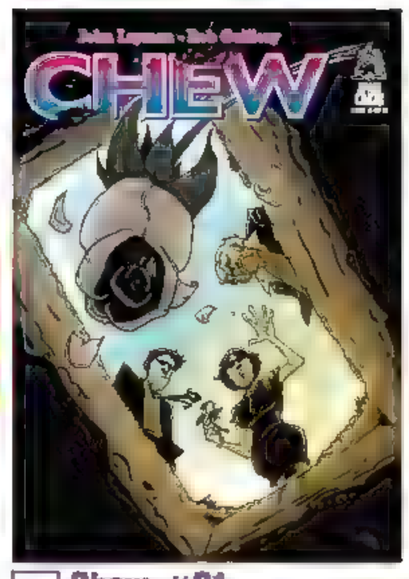
☐ Bedlam #3

☐ Black Kiss II #6 (of 6)

☐ Blackacre #2



☐ Change #2 (of 4)



☐ Chew #31

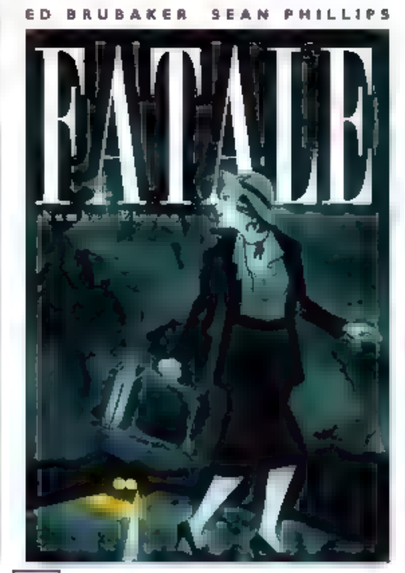
☐ Clone #3

☐ Comeback #3 (of 5)

☐ Cyber Force #3

☐ Darkness #109

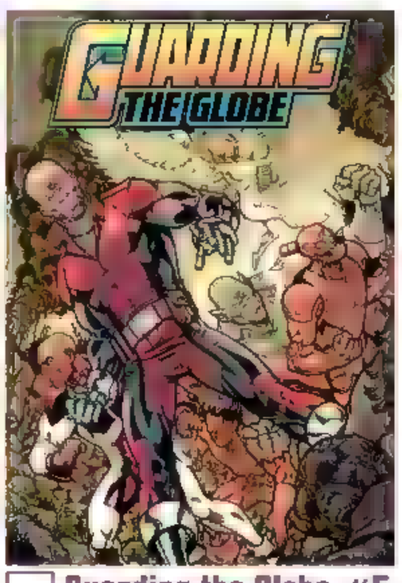
☐ Elephantmen #45



☐ Fatale #11

☐ Glory #31

☐ Great Pacific #3

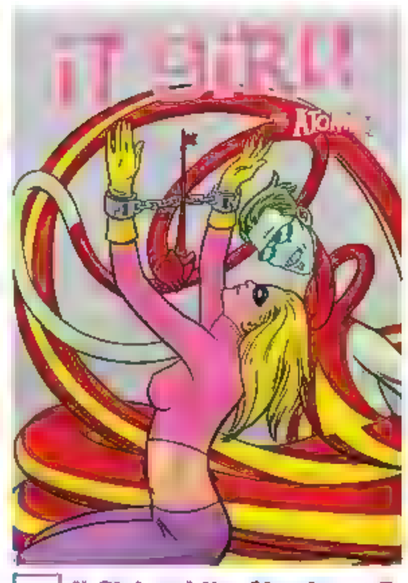


☐ Guarding the Globe #5

☐ Happy #4 (of 4)

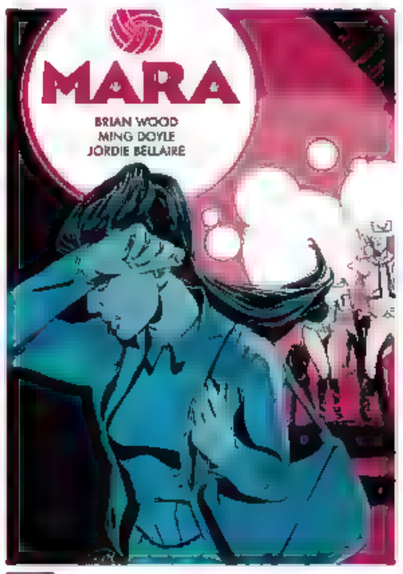
☐ Harvest #5 (of 5)

☐ I Love Trouble #2

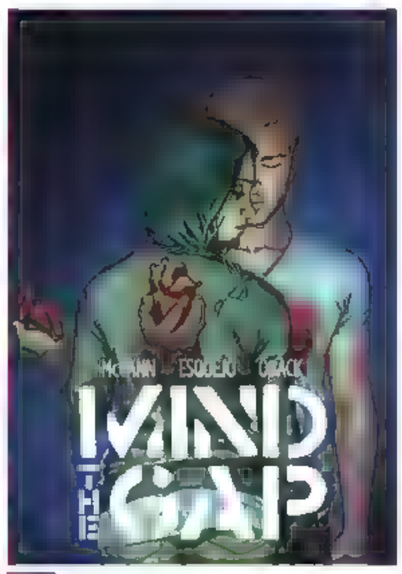


☐ It Girl and the Atomics #6

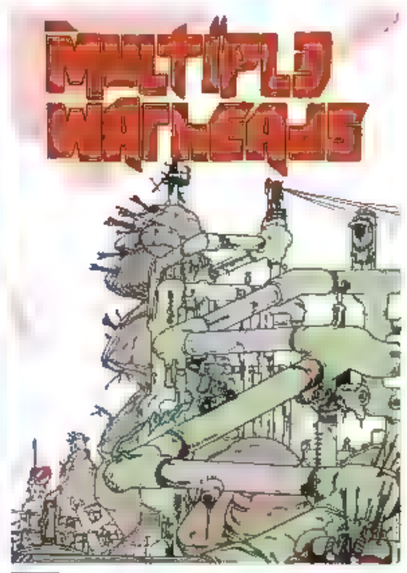
☐ Manhattan Projects #8



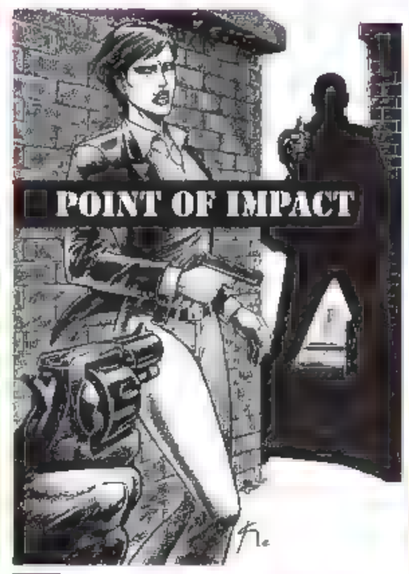
☐ Mara #2 (of 6)



☐ Mind the Gap #7

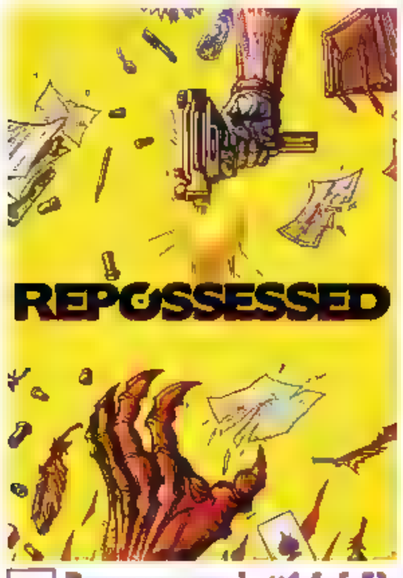


☐ Multiple Warheads:
Alphabet to Infinity #4 (of 4)

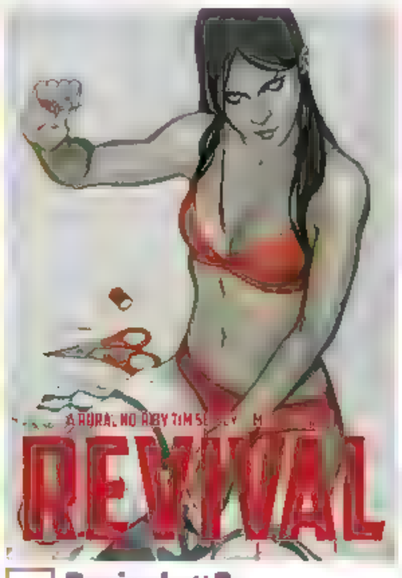


☐ Point of Impact #4 (of 4)

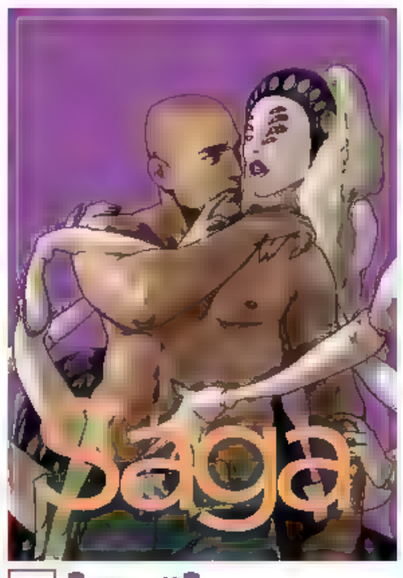
☐ Prophet #32



☐ Repossessed #1 (of 4)



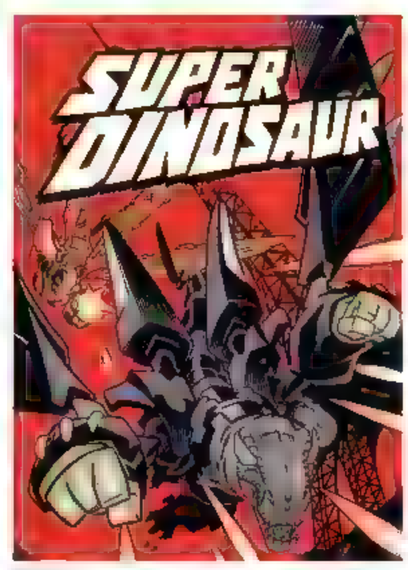
☐ Revival #6



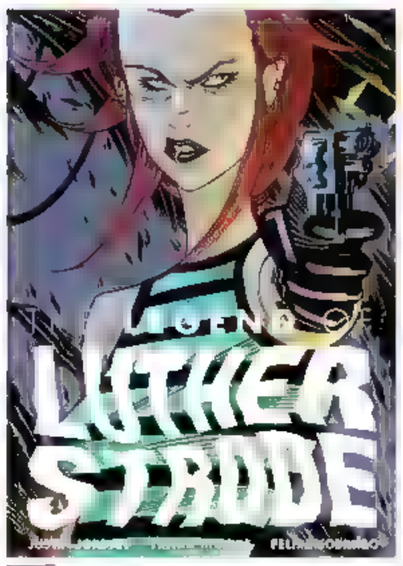
☐ Saga #9

☐ Savage Dragon #184

☐ Spawn #226

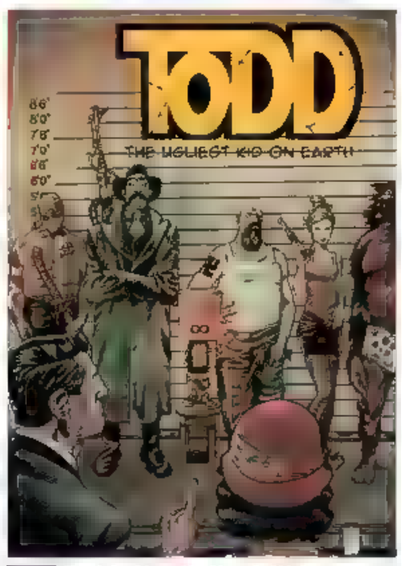


☐ Super Dinosaur #17

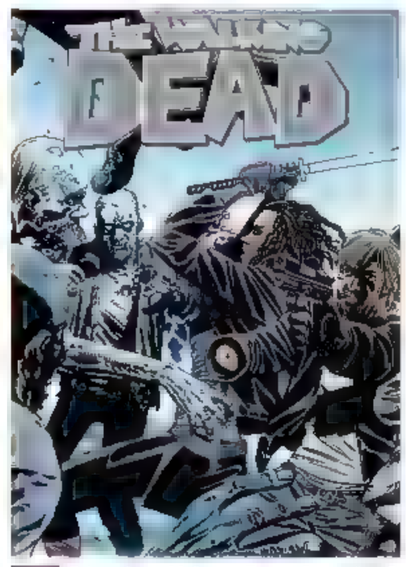


☐ The Legend of
Luther Strode #2 (of 6)

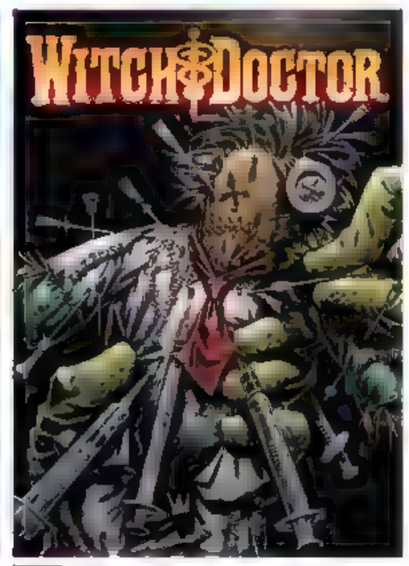
☐ Thief of Thieves #12



☐ Todd, the Ugliest Kid
on Earth #1 (of 4)



☐ The Walking Dead #106



☐ Witch Doctor
Mal Practice #3 (of 6)

☐ Witchblade #183

Question of the Month

"What is your comics New Year's Resolution?"

To better recognize how appreciative I am to be working for Image. It's so easy to get caught up in the next issue and project — you lose sight of where you are.

HOAX HUNTERS

To try writing in at least two new genres.

THIEF OF THIEVES,
THE END TIMES OF BRAM & BEN

Same as always — do more pages!

HELL YEAH

NO MORE MUTANTS.

CHEW

JANUARY 2013

the i word
EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

For the latest Image Comics news and previews: (1) visit www.imagecomics.com (2) friend on Facebook (3) follow on Twitter (@imagecomics)

Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

THE THIRD DEGREE
PAUL POPE

PAUL POPE is an American cartoonist living and working in New York City. He has been working primarily in comics since the early '90s. His iconic *Batman: Year 100*, a science fiction take on the classic Batman origin tale, has won numerous awards, seen print in many languages, and appears frequently on many Top 10 Batman story lists. In 2010, Pope was recognized as a Master Artist by the American Council Of The Arts, and is currently sitting on the ACA advisory board. His 2010, short science fiction comic strip *Strange Adventures* (DC Comics)--an homage to the Flash Gordon serials of the '30s-- won the coveted National Cartoonist Society's Reuben Award for Best Comic Book of the year.

What are you working on right now?
I just wrapped *Battling Boy* for First:Second. I have a few dogs in the film fight, let's see if those things pan out. I am immediately moving onto my book *Psychenaut*, for Dargaud, my French publisher. A book about dreams and Carl Jung's theories of dream interpretation.

What's the best part of your job?
The war of art....! It's not always easy, but it's a good fight. So glad people care enough to pay attention.

What's the worst part of your job?
The uncertainty and the isolation. Social anxiety. That's probably just the human condition, though.

How did you first discover comics?
1975, I had the flu. I was five. My pop came back from hockey camp in Ontario with a big busted lip under his moustache and a copy of Kirby's *Bring On The Badguys*. I fell in love with Thor and Doctor Doom. I started drawing superheroes on my bedsheets right after that with a blue Bic marker.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
I don't know. It's hard to imagine doing anything else....

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?
Probably the times you meet someone who says they read your books with their kids. That is really meaningful. I like meeting people, everyone has something to say.

I did, however, just find out that I met Jordie Bellaire, colorist on *Mara*, at some show when she was THIRTEEN and sold her a copy of one of my books. I've never felt older.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
My influences would include Moebius, Alex Toth, Kirby, Crepax....Frank Miller and Jeff Smith....Picasso.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
I'd say *Battling Boy*, since it is the most vital and fresh for me. I keep trying to improve.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
I love Bing Crosby Christmas tunes. I love walking in the snow and having cold feet. I love the corny Japanese Moog composer Isao Tomita.

What was the last comic book you bought?
I bought the recent Dark Horse collection of Richard Corben's work for *Eerie* and *Creepy*....that is some amazing stuff.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?
Honestly, I'd not change places with anybody.... if I could have dinner with someone, I'd think Mark Twain or maybe Orson Wells or Mickey Rourke or Nick Cave might be good company.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Family, Health, Music.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
My lady is a circus performer and builds her own rigs. At the moment, we have an 8 foot tall metal crescent moon with LED displays set up in the living room.

What makes you laugh?
I love the dumb jokes kids tell, like, "two sausages are in a frying pan...." Jokes like that.

What is one of your favorite places?
The island Capri off the coast of Italy. Tokyo. NYC. Ontario. Alaska.

What music are you listening to these days?
I listen a lot lately to Einsturzende Neubauten, Alice Coltrane, Beethoven, Grinderman, and Ravi Shankar.

What is your favorite film of all time?
A tough one...I would likely say *Andrei Rublev*, by Tarkovsky. Close seconds-- *Ran* by Kurosawa, Kubrick's *The Shining*. *Holy Mountain* by Jodorowsky.

Who is your best friend?
Kostas, Harvest, and Pascoe. Scott. Erika.

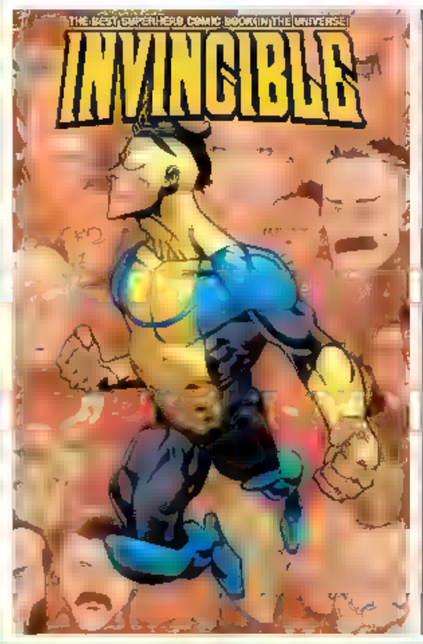
What is the best advice you've ever received?
"No masterpiece was ever created by a lazy artist" –Salvador Dali

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
Anytime I'm in a car or on an airplane.

Who is someone you really admire?
Muhammad Ali, Louise Nevelson, Nick Cave, Picasso, Jeff Smith. Miles Davis. Ursula LeGuin. Ian Astbury. Kostas Seremetis.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
I want to see more badass comics, more artists and writers taking the wheel of their own ships, more editors and publishers backing new dreams and visions, more young people getting into comics, both as readers and as makers.

INVINCIBLE #100

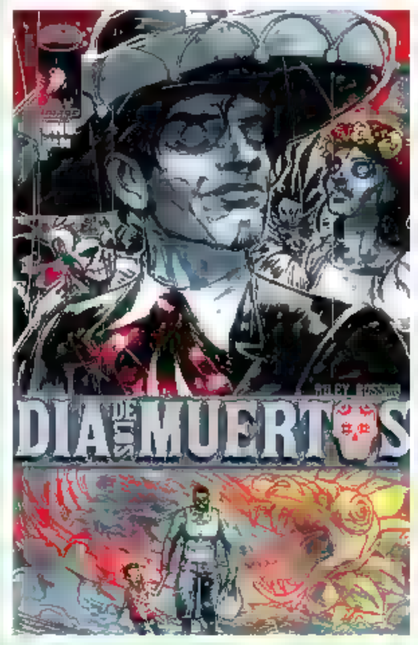


10th ANNIVERSARY LANDMARK 100th ISSUE SPECTACULAR! It's all been building to this. Mark Grayson's entire life as a superhero, all he's learned, all he's endured, it's all been leading to this one moment. Will he become the hero he was meant to be or will he choose... a DIFFERENT path? The aftermath of this EXTRA-SIZED issue will shock you.

ONE TRICK RIP-OFF/DEEP-CUTS HC

Young lovers Teddy and Vim want to escape escape the mistakes they've made, the lives they've lived, and the dirty city weighing them down. Their plan is simple: all they have to do is rip-off the best tricks the toughest street gang in L.A. to they pull it off, they're set for life. If not, their lives won't matter much anyway.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS #1 (OF 3)



Artist extraordinaire RILEY ROSSMO joins forces with nine different writers over three issues in tales from beyond the grave! A mariachi falls in love with a woman who looks like his dead love, a father is abused by a policeman and a girl whose mother died when she was born visits the void of the dead in her dreams.

THE END TIMES OF BRAM & BEN #1 (OF 4)

What would you do if you were caught in the Biblical End Times? When Heaven ruptures total bastard Bram Carlson in a "clerical error" (he's sent back and immediately uses Armageddon to his benefit! Can his anxious roommate Ben save Bram from himself? AND the gathering forces of Armageddon?

FABIAN GRAY:
THE THIEF WHO CAN ACCESS
EACH OF THEIR UNIQUE ABILITIES

FIVE GHOSTS

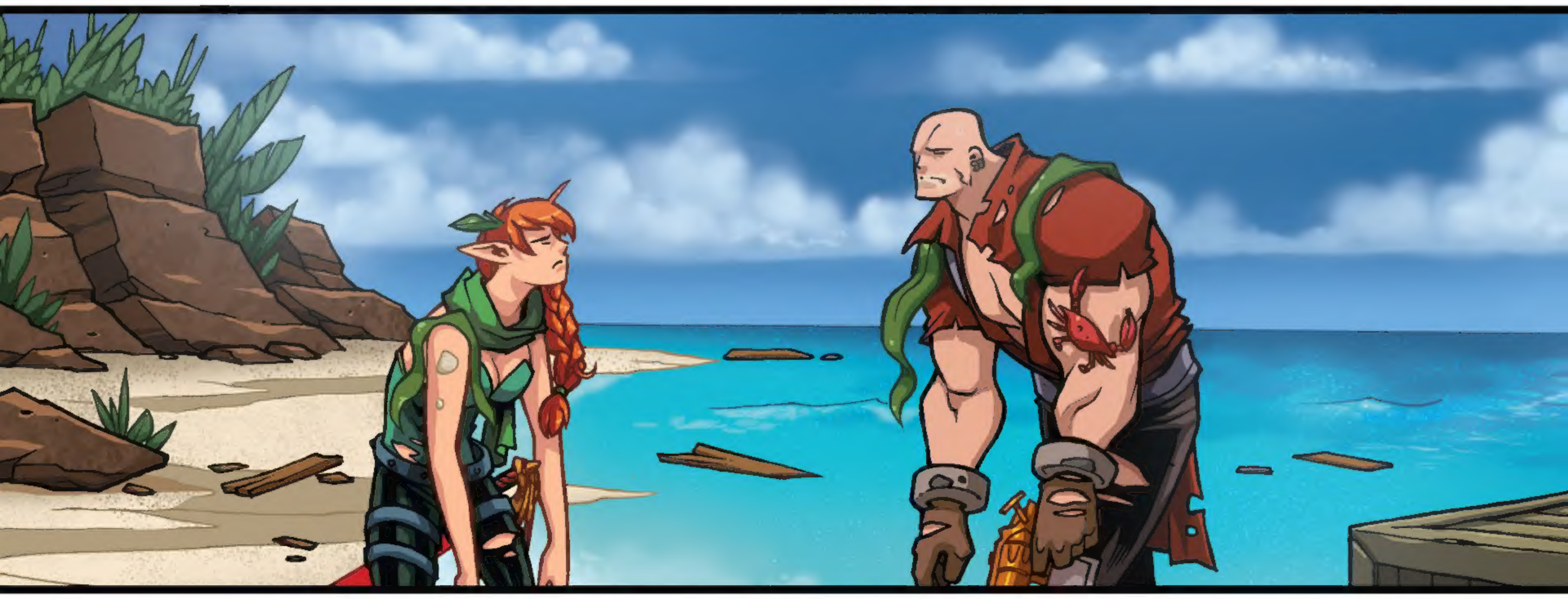
THE HAUNTING OF FABIAN GRAY

AN ORIGINAL LITERARY PULP ADVENTURE
FROM WRITER FRANK J. BARBIERE
& ARTIST CHRIS MOONEYHAM

MARCH 2013

FIVE GHOSTS is © and TM Frank J. Barbiere & Chris Mooneyham. All rights reserved
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

NEW #1.



NEW ADJECTIVE.

SAME ATTITUDE.

THE UNCANNY SKULLKICKERS™

image

JIM ZUB
EDWIN HUANG
FEBRUARY 2013

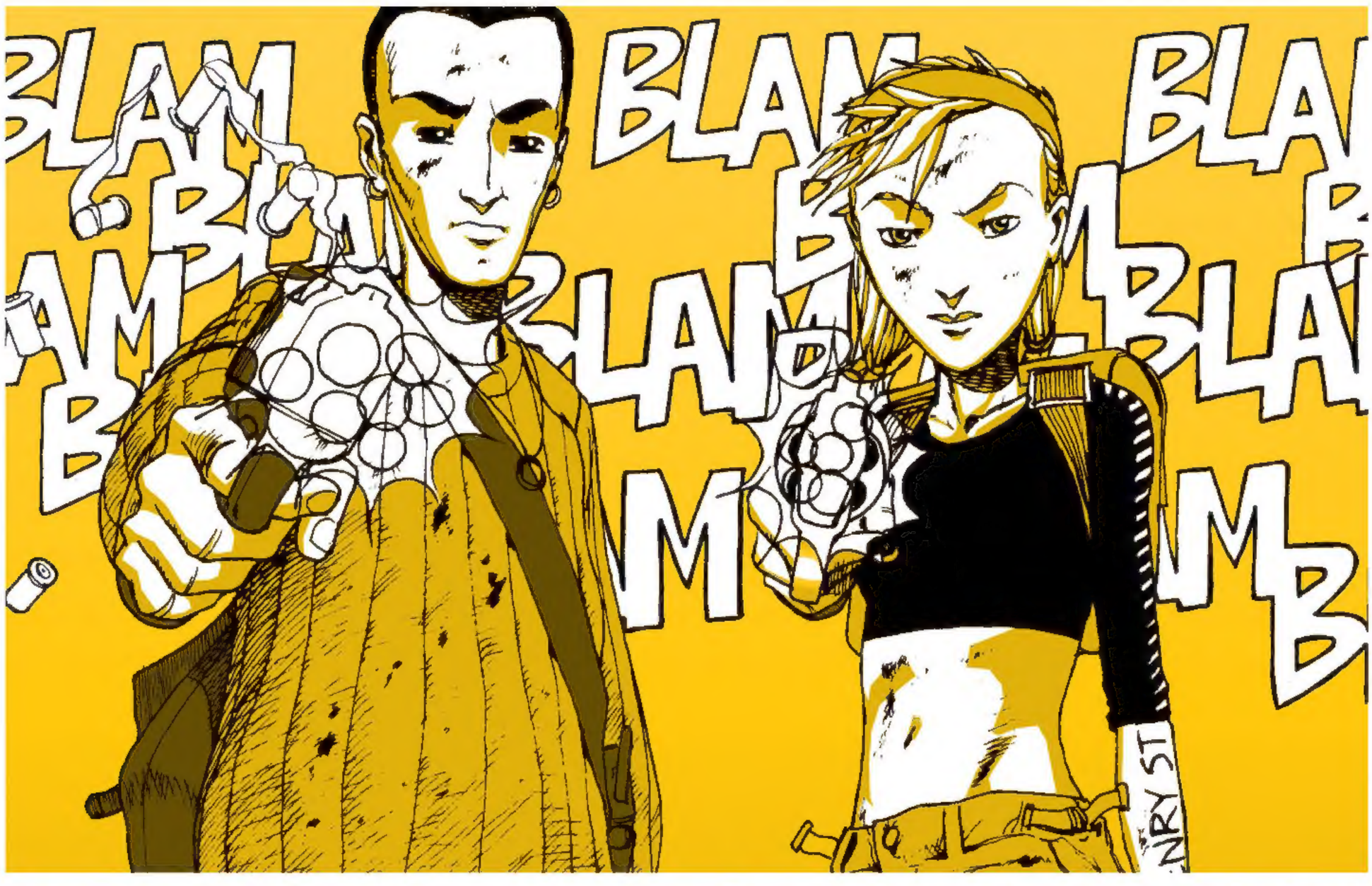
SKULLKICKERS™ © Jim Zub. All rights reserved.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

image®

The Couriers™

THE COMPLETE SERIES

BRIAN WOOD x ROB G x BRETT WELDELE

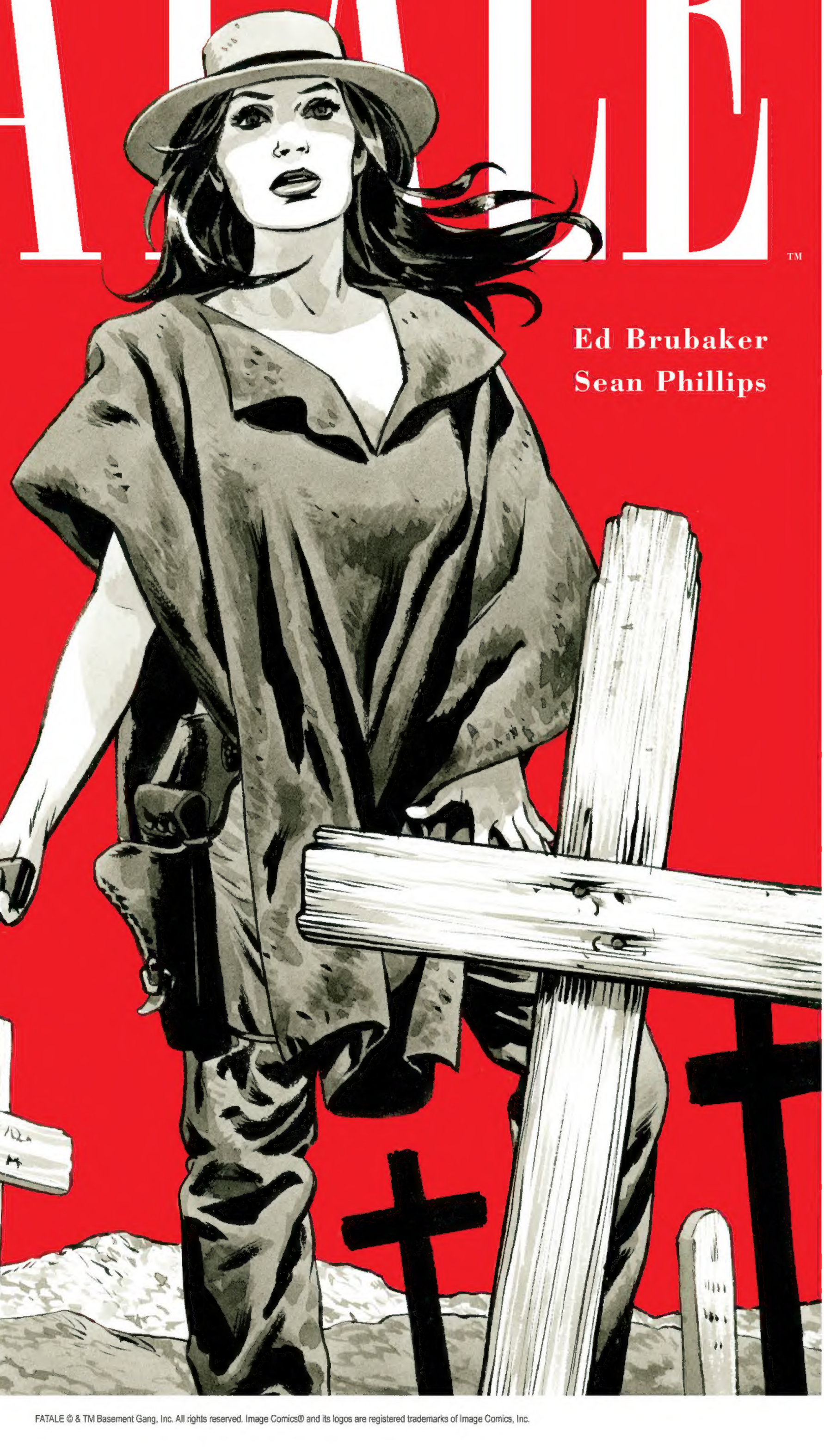


AVAILABLE NOW

THE COURIERS © 2012 Brian Wood & Rob G. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

A steady hand, a loaded six-shooter—and looks that *kill*.

FATALE™



Number Thirteen

On Sale February

Ed Brubaker
Sean Phillips

image®

FATALE © & TM Basement Gang, Inc. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

NAHGA